

REMARKS:

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-14 and 16-18 and rejected claims 19-21. Claims 19-21 are amended herein and claims 3, 9 and 15 remain cancelled. No new matter is presented.

Thus, claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-14 and 16-21 are pending and under consideration. The rejections are traversed below.

ALLOWED CLAIMS:

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-14 and 16-18 are allowed.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e):

Claim 21 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,938,725 (Hara).

Independent claim 21 recites, "determining whether a reply destination of an electronic mail is part of a first mailing list having multiple destination addresses listed therein" and "generating a second mailing list responsive to a selection of a destination address from the first mailing list and transmitting a reply to the electronic mail using the second mailing list." This, for example, prevents unnecessary transmission of replies to e-mails by enabling selection from destination addresses that are part of a mailing list.

The Hara extracting unit (122) extracts the mail address of the transmission destination candidate from the retrieved electronic mail messages by using a keyword and the mail address extracted is used as a mail address of the transmission destination candidate (see, col. 7, lines 38-47). That is, Hara extracts mail addresses of destinations of global address communications from addresses matching stored e-mail messages containing the keyword and sends the mail using the mail addresses.

Hara does not teach or suggest the above-identified features of claim 21 including "determining whether a reply destination of an electronic mail is part of a first mailing list" and "generating a second mailing list responsive to a selection of a destination address from the first mailing list", as recited in claim 21.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Claims 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hara in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,872,925 (Han).

As mentioned above, Hara extracts mail addresses of destinations from addresses matching stored e-mail messages containing the keyword.

The Examiner acknowledges that Hara does not disclose selectively broadcasting a reply to e-mail terminal devices corresponding to one or more of the designated destination addresses of the mailing list using a single mail address responsive to a selection by a sender of the reply, but relies on Han as teaching the same. Han discusses selectively blocking a "Reply to All" command that routes the reply to the sender of the original message and to everyone who received the message (see, col. 4, lines 27-39). However, Han does not teach or suggest "selective" use of a destination address contained in a mailing list as taught by the claimed invention of claims 19 and 20.

Independent claim 19 recites, "determining whether a reply destination address included in a received electronic mail is included in the destination addresses of the mailing list" and "selectively broadcasting a reply in response to the electronic mail to an e-mail terminal device corresponding to a designated destination address of the mailing list."

Similarly, claim 20 recites, "determining whether a reply destination of the electronic mail is part of a mailing list" and "selecting a destination address from the multiple destination addresses in the mailing list and transmitting a reply in response to the electronic mail received only to the destination address."

Hara and Han, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the above-identified features including selectively transmitting a reply to "a destination address of the mailing list", as recited in claims 19 and 20.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

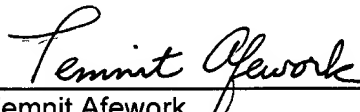
Serial No. 09/587,565

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 02/14/07

By: 
Temnit Afework
Registration No. 58,202

1201 New York Avenue, NW, 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501